(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider such a proposal, if requested?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) A separate Non Resident Indian (NRI)/Persons fo Indian Origion (PIO) Division was established in the Ministry of External Affairs in April, 2000 as a major initiative of the Govenrnment to foster closer relationship with the Overseas Indian Community. The new Division is responsible for formulating appropriate policies for deepening linkages with NRIs and overseas Indians, for encouraging their participation in the development of the country in various fields including investment, education, culture, science & technology etc. It also acts as an inter-face between the organizations and associations of overseas Indians abroad and the Govt. of India. It acts as the coordinator of activities of other Ministries and Organisations dealing with subjects of interest to overseas Indians.

(c) Does not arise.

British opinion about Kashmir

943. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news analysis published in 'The Hindu' dated the 4th June, 2002 under the caption, "British opinion not with India on Kashmir";

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to impress upon the British Government and drive home the point that so far as India is concerned, Kashmir was a settled issue *vis-a-vis* the position taken by British Foreign Secretary that Kashmir was an unfinished business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The position of the British Government on this issue has been clarified form time to time and most recently by UK Foreign Secretary

Mr. Jack Straw, who stated in the House of Commons on 10th June, 2002 that Kashmir is "at root a bilateral matter which can only be resolved by direct dialogue between the parties". The British Government has also acknowledged and commented negatively on the infiltration of armed terrorists across the Line of Control into India from the Pakistani side and has accepted that there is clear link between the ISI and terrorist groups operating across the LOC.

India will continue to sensitize the British Government regarding its concerns on this matter. Government's position that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India is also known to the British.

Test fire of Ghauri missile by Pakistan

944. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan test-fired its hatf-V-"Ghauri" missile on May 25, 2002, and conducted a series of short and medium range missile tests between May 25 to 28, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of the missiles tested and the success achieved therein; and

(c) the reaction of Government, US, Russia and other world powers thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Between 25-28 May, 2002, Pakistan conducted the following 3 tests of surface-to-surface ballistic missiles:

Date	Missile	Claimed Range
25 May	Medium range Hatf V (Ghauri)	1500 Km
26 May	Short Range Hatf III (Ghaznavi)	290 Km
28 May	Short range Hatf II (Abdali)	180 Km

While the exact ranges achieved in these tests have not been specified, Pakistan has claimed that all the missiles impacted accurately and all design parameters have been validated.